

## What is Project Firstline?

[Project Firstline](#) is a training and education collaborative designed by the US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) to ensure all healthcare workers, no matter their role or educational background, have the infection control knowledge and understanding they need to protect themselves, their patients, and their coworkers.

Project Firstline delivers comprehensive, transparent, and responsive training and education to the millions of frontline healthcare workers in the United States.

Project Firstline was launched in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which revealed long-standing gaps in infection control knowledge and understanding among frontline healthcare workforces.

*Salud America!* at UT Health San Antonio is now working with the National Hispanic Medical Association to bring Project Firstline content to frontline healthcare workers to protect Latinos and all communities from infectious disease threats, including COVID-19.

“Healthcare workers need and deserve clear and trustworthy information not only on CDC’s infection control recommendations, but also on the rationale and science behind them,” [the CDC states](#).

## What is infection control?

[Germs](#), including bacteria and [viruses](#), can spread quickly.

[The goal of infection prevention and control is to keep patients and healthcare workers from getting sick.](#)

Infection control involves a variety of tactics to [stop germs from spreading](#), including [cleaning and disinfecting surfaces](#), wearing appropriate [Personal Protection Equipment \(PPE\)](#), [washing your hands](#), creating good [ventilation](#), and practicing [source control](#).

But infection control is more than just policies and procedures, it’s an essential part of caring for and protecting colleagues and patients.

“When you can understand and apply infection control actions consistently and confidently – every person, every action, every day – it saves lives,” [the CDC states](#).

## Why is Project Firstline infection control training important?

[COVID-19](#) worsened the many healthcare disparities already facing Latinos and other vulnerable populations.

These same groups are also struggling to recover from COVID-19, as many people lost their jobs, health insurance, financial safety nets, and more.

Additionally, people of all backgrounds are battling the long-term health effects of COVID-19, referred to as [Long COVID](#).

That’s why it’s important to stay up to date on the latest infection control practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases that may have devastating, long-term public health impacts.

## **Why should I share Project Firstline infection control training opportunities with my colleagues?**

The height of the COVID-19 pandemic was an overwhelming time for many healthcare workers.

Opportunities for growth in infection control knowledge and skills became evident through all the changes and challenges of the pandemic.

Project Firstline offers a [variety of infection control educational resources](#), including videos, infographics, training toolkits, and interactive tools to help fill these gaps in infection control knowledge and understanding.

These resources are designed to meet the diverse needs and learning preferences of the healthcare workforce in the United States and offer continuing education credits.

Content is tailored for on-the-go use, designed to be integrated into the workday, and available in multiple languages, including Spanish and multiple Asian languages.

By sharing Project Firstline [infection control educational resources on your own LinkedIn page](#), you will be presenting opportunities to fill gaps in infection control knowledge and skills among all healthcare workers in your network.

When healthcare workers do their part to improve their infection control knowledge and understanding, they can better protect themselves, colleagues, and patients from infectious diseases like COVID-19.

### **Need some inspiration?**

Check out these infection control heroes that went above and beyond to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the Latino community!

[Dr. Ricardo Correa](#) provided infection control training to community health workers, educated the Latino community on infection control practices through culturally tailored approaches, and influenced other Latinos to wear their mask, wash their hands, and get the COVID-19 vaccine.

[Wanda Montalvo, PhD](#), advocated for community health center staff to receive necessary PPE, supported the dissemination of CDC guidelines and evidence-based information to frontline healthcare workers, and helped tackle COVID-19 misinformation or lack of information among patients.

[Anna Valdez, PhD](#), wrote the chapter on PPE in the *Emergency Nursing Core Curriculum*, educates nursing students on infection control practices, and works to improve infection control in vulnerable communities by promoting more diversity in healthcare.

Dr. Marlene Martin helped develop and lead a community program that brought COVID-19 infection control education and resources to the Latino community. The program included case investigation, contact tracing, and wrap-around services that proved vital in COVID-19 infection control.